

11-30-2007

The Hilltop 11-30-2007

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Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 63

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Friday, November 30, 2007

Friday
Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS WERE DEPLOYED AFTER THE WRECKAGE OF A TURKISH JET CARRYING 56 PASSENGERS WAS FOUND, ACCORDING TO CNN.

CAMPUS

AREA COLLEGIATE ACTIVISTS CONVENE ON HOWARD'S CAMPUS TO DISCUSS THE BROAD PICTURE OF BLACK INJUSTICE IN AMERICA.

SPORTS

SIX MEMBERS OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM WERE SELECTED FOR THE 2007 ALL-MEAC TEAM THIS WEEK. FIND OUT MORE INSIDE.

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The AIDS Memorial Quilt is just one way that people observe World AIDS Day, held Dec. 1. A number of local, national and global organizations participate in various events to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Chuck Kennedy (KRT)

AIDS Affects Howard, Not Just the District

BY JEANNETTE HORDGE
Contributing Writer

Howard University is not devoid of seminars, workshops and programs that stress the importance of getting tested for HIV/AIDS. However, some students convince themselves that despite engaging in unprotected sex, they are invulnerable to the disease.

Some Howard students are sexually active, and some are not using protection. A study released by the District of Columbia government on Tuesday

might convince them, and others, to act otherwise.

The study reported that African Americans account for 57 percent of the city's population but 81 percent of new HIV cases in the Washington, D.C. community.

Joe Claiborne, a senior sports medicine major, said he knows numerous students at Howard who have unprotected sex or have at least tried it.

"It's sad that we are doing this to ourselves," Claiborne said after hearing some of

the recently released statistics. "I'm not surprised, but at the same time I am."

The records also show that African-American women make up 57 percent of the District's female population and 90 percent of Washington, D.C.'s cases of HIV for women.

Courtney Jacobs, a senior biology major, studied abroad in South Africa over the summer and researched HIV/AIDS within urban and rural areas of South Africa. During her studies,

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Organizations Plan for World AIDS Day

BY MARISSA CARTER
Contributing Writer

The world will take a day to observe and stress the importance of the fight against one of the greatest health challenges of our generation, the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, World AIDS Day, held Dec. 1, gives organizations, governments and individuals world-wide an opportunity to collectively create awareness and take a stand against the spread of HIV and AIDS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there are approximately 40 million people in the world living with either AIDS or HIV, and approximately 25 million lives have been lost to the virus since it was first identified in 1981.

Many organizations around the world have put forth grandiose efforts to create awareness and lower the rate of AIDS and HIV in their countries. Bienestar, the nation's largest Hispanic HIV/AIDS organization, organized a briefing at the Capitol earlier this year urging lawmakers to increase HIV/AIDS educational campaigns and treatment services in the Hispanic community, which has approximately 1.6 million cases of either HIV/AIDS.

However, the organization Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), which is "a national initiative building a powerful community-based movement bridging HIV/AIDS human rights and struggles for social economic justice," has not only been active in the fight against the epidemic, but also has plans to make a bold statement during World AIDS Day this year.

CHAMP has started a national campaign titled "the 2007 Prevention Justice Mobilization" with the tag line "HIV is not just a disease. It's proof of

injustice!"

"We need a plan, not a patchwork," said Julie Davids, executive director of CHAMP. "We need to move from a response to AIDS that is often bureaucratic to one that is evidence-based and outcomes-oriented, a response that reaches everyone at risk of infection or needing care."

The CDC has made it a point to make people aware of the number of AIDS and HIV cases by doing narrow research for different locations, genders, races and ages. One of their most recent studies shows the top 10 states and territories with the most reported cases of AIDS.

New York ranks No.1.

"New York does not have adequate HIV education programs for this to be such a serious issue," said John Riley, an active member of ACT/UP New York, an AIDS coalition founded in 1987 at the height of the AIDS epidemic, since 1992. "We as an organization believe that this is not only a health issue a major political problem as well. We have to get together with similar organizations to make our opinions heard and we plan on doing that some way or another on World AIDS Day this year."

Student organizations on campus will also be doing their part to promote AIDS and HIV awareness on World AIDS Day.

One in particular is the Howard chapter of the NAACP. For weeks, members of the organization have been planning a special event hoping to capture the hearts of Howard students and encourage them to become actively involved in community initiatives or organizations that focus on educating youth and families about HIV and AIDS.

"We knew we wanted to do something or plan an event that would have a positive impact on both the Howard and outside communities," said Kendra

Clark, a junior accounting major and the membership chair of Howard's NAACP chapter. "However, when we heard about Wright House and what they're trying to accomplish, we were influenced not only to create an event about AIDS and HIV awareness, but to focus it on all of the great things that are being done at the Wright House."

Wright House is a nonprofit after school center/house that helps children either cope with or understand AIDS and HIV. Either the children or their parents are infected with the virus.

The event "Knowing is Beautiful" will take place in the Blackburn Ballroom at 7 p.m. on Dec. 1.

There will be food, music and an HIV/AIDS community representative to speak, according to Clark. Efforts are being made to have a representative from the Wright House to speak as well. All of the money raised will be given to the Wright House to further their programs for children.

Cedric Loiseau, vice president of Howard's NAACP chapter, said, "I anticipate on this being a successful event that will raise a good amount of money for a great nonprofit organization. One thing that I firmly believe is that people need to pay special attention to this issue not only for one day but year-round. The major goal here is to create a spark in people around campus that will encourage people to volunteer and contribute to great organizations such as the Wright House."

World AIDS Day this year looks to be one of action and protests to take place all over the world.

"We cannot make significant progress unless government and community efforts better respond to the needs of the people, and we need a comprehensive strategy to get there," said Phill Wilson, executive director of the Black AIDS Institute.



Derrell Smith - Photo Editor

William Brawner, who is HIV positive, shares his story with audiences around the nation.

HU Alumnus Tells His Story

BY JEANNETTE HORDGE
Contributing Writer

At 18 months old, William Brawner was severely burned and had to receive a blood transfusion. But it wasn't until he was five that doctors realized he had received a transfusion from a male who was HIV positive. He and his mother vowed to keep it a secret between him, her and the doc-

tors.

Today, Brawner has AIDS and is an advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness. This 26-year-old Howard University alumnus is also the founder and director of Haven Youth Center, Inc. He travels the nation and shares his story with at risk students and communities.

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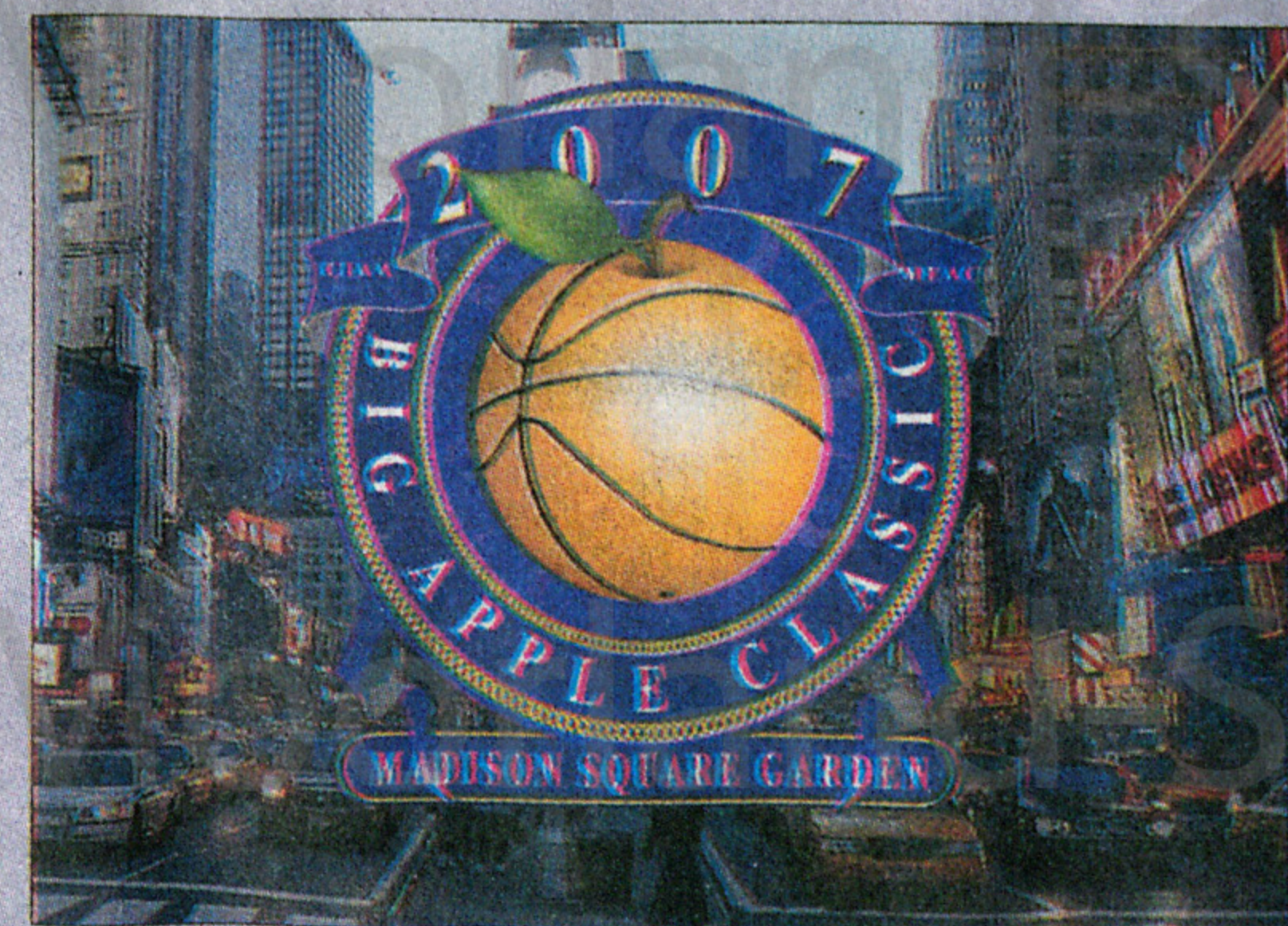


Photo Courtesy of bigappleclassic.com

The Bison travel to New York City to face Hampton in the Big Apple Classic.

Men's Basketball Travels to the Garden

BY STEPHEN KNOX
Contributing Writer

The Howard University men's basketball team will be opening up their conference schedule in style at Madison Square Garden, in New York City on Saturday.

This is the second year they will be playing Hampton at the Big Apple Classic. Virginia Union and Bowie State will also face off at 7 p.m. Last season Virginia Union won, 87-42, and Howard won, 95-

84. Junior guard Eugene Myatt was a key player in last year's game, and is looking for a repeat performance.

"We are not looking to change much as players from last year," Myatt said. "We know what to expect from Hampton we just have to reach their intensity the same way we did last year."

As basketball fans themselves, the players understand the significance of being able to play a game in the most storied arena in the history of the

game.

"It's a great experience to play a game where so many great players have played," Myatt said. "All of the Knicks players that played there, and even Michael Jordan loved to play in the Garden."

Sports information director Edward Hill Jr. thought the game went above and beyond expectations last year.

"There was a great crowd at the game and a whole lot of excitement," Hill said. "This year there should be even

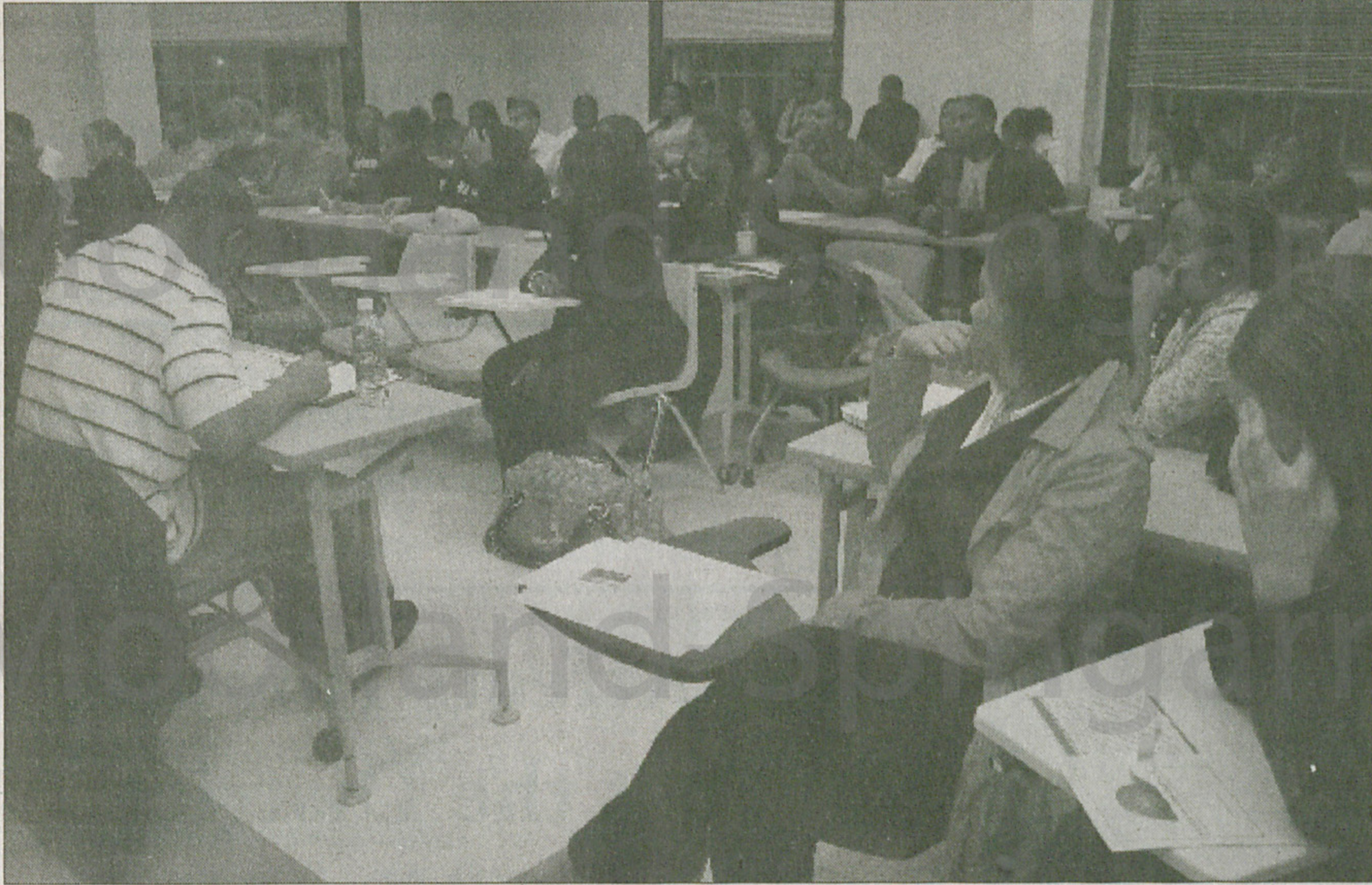
more people. Some of the state clubs from the tri-state area are going to the game."

This is not the first time New York has put on a showcase for HBCUs.

"There is an NY Urban League Football Classic game every year for black college football teams," Hill said. "It used to be held in Yankee stadium, but now it is at the Meadowlands in New Jersey where the New York Jets and

> See CLASSIC, Page 3

Activists Debate Current State of Black Injustice



Eyes shifted from a panel of area student activists to vocal and concerned attendees at "State of Emergency" on Wednesday.

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Staff Writer

The disturbing trend of racism and unfair treatment of blacks in the criminal justice system seems to be mounting nationwide.

As racially charged incidents like the Jena "6," the brutal attack and sexual abuse of Megan Williams and the hanging of nooses in public places become less rare, more students are getting involved.

To engage in a discussion, student leaders from area colleges gathered on a panel to talk about racial issues at "State of Emergency: It's not Just Jena" on Wednesday.

"We've got to work together as a people and we have to look out and support each other," said Lorraine Miller, president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the NAACP. "We need to have our own infrastructure or we will be on a downward slope."

Miller encouraged student audience members to continue activism, saying, "You can take the NAACP and you can take the Urban Leagues of the world; they need strength. They need you. The moment is pregnant for intervention."

Students voiced their concern about recent national incidents and addressed possible ways to combat injustice.

"Everything is not OK when you look at the succession of things going on in the 21st century," said Ellie Gunderson, president of

NAACP at Georgetown University. Gunderson said that while "everything may look equal on paper," laws are being manipulated, often at the expense of blacks.

Gunderson also said that the Jena "6" have brought many people together to rally.

"All you need is enough people stepping up and having a voice, and if our voices are loud enough, politicians will have to respond," Gunderson said.

Some students expressed concern with government help being focused overseas while there are still pressing domestic concerns to address.

"How can America help other systems when we have issues of our own?" asked Alessandra Brown, treasurer of the NAACP's Georgetown chapter. "International issues are important, but domestically we're not doing what we need to do about our own problems."

Brown said that the generation gap has decreased since many young and old rallied behind the Jena "6."

"Jena was probably the moment when I became an activist," she said. "There's a difference in what we're fighting for. Today we're fighting to push people to do what they need to do."

Brown said the activism will not end with her generation and the same issues may have to be addressed in the future.

"We must be informed of

the issues that media tends to ignore or gloss over," said Whitney McGuire, president of the George Washington University chapter of NAACP. "There are organizations available to get involved, or you could start with grassroots movements."

Some panelists, however, said that the Jena "6" served as a reminder of a harsh reality.

"We are in a vulnerable position, but it didn't take Jena '6' to happen to realize that," said Chigozie Onyema, a senior African-American studies major and Howard chapter NAACP member. "History tells me this already."

Onyema said activists often argue over tactics when they do not initially share the same ideologies.

Panelists explained how young people can become involved and help to inform others about racially charged issues.

Ray Baker, a senior broadcast journalism major, said he uses his avenue as a football coach to inform young people about the importance of accountability.

"Sometimes when you put medicine in the food, folks don't even know what they're being fed," he said.

Baker encouraged attendees to use any avenues available to help inform the masses so that blacks can create a communal effort to combat racism.

"We sometimes need a galvanizing issue for people to rally around," he said. "Some people who

were apathetic are now more knowledgeable. Hopefully discussions like this may [serve] to pluck those apathetic folks out, and make us all more aware."

Some students believed that a galvanized event is not enough to reach the masses.

"Clearly, we have not done enough, we are not completely galvanized," McGuire said. "Race has always been the figurative element in the room."

While many students believed the title of the panel discussion, "State of Emergency," appropriately described the black predicament, others questioned whether concerns were being reacted to as an actual emergency.

"I think it's ironic that the title of tonight's program is 'State of Emergency,'" Cory Scott, a senior history major, said. "Are we really acting as if we're in an emergency?"

Scott said if blacks truly felt these concerns warranted a state of emergency, people would become active, using any resources they have.

"The entire community has to deal with these issues," Scott said. "Seriously, if we're going to say that this is a state of emergency what should be the response?"

Some panelists voiced concern that the discussion needs to reach a more diverse audience, one that normally would not adamantly engage in a discussion about the state of blacks in America.

"We're talking to the same people," Brown said of the room of people in Douglass Hall. "This is our family and it's like we're sitting at the dinner table."

Many left the discussion with a sense of understanding of what young adults say about racial issues in the country.

"It's good to be at this table and if I were at a dinner table, I'd be proud of my children," said E. Gail Anderson-Holness Ph.D., executive board member of the NAACP Washington D.C. chapter.

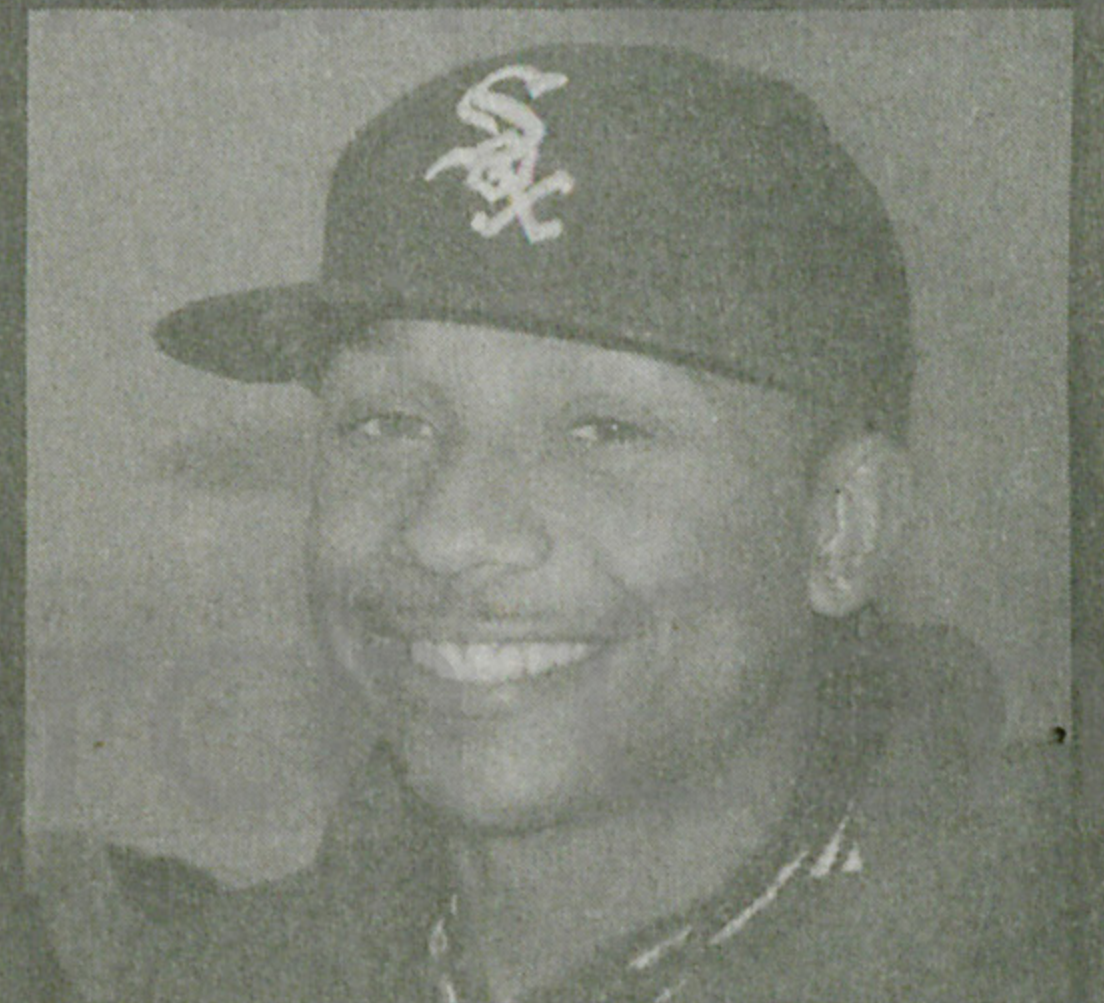
Anderson-Holness said it is like "déjà vu" from her days as a young activist.

"One person can make a difference, and you shouldn't be concerned if you're speaking to the choir because others will hear the choir singing," Anderson-Holness said. "These issues have been around from Dred Scott to Jena '6.'"

She added, "Continue to be involved and be who you are. It's always the young people to make the difference."

ON THE SPOT!

Can you state two facts about AIDS/HIV?



I don't know too much about it except it is a deadly disease and D.C. has the largest number of HIV cases in America.

-Matthew Cole,
freshman, marketing



Most of the HIV cases are among African Americans, which is why it is common in D.C. Most victims of HIV are caused from sexual interactions.

-Brandon Wilson
junior, computer science



HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. There is currently no cure for HIV or AIDS, but many medications are available for treatment.

-Ashleigh Manning
junior, business management



HIV is a retrovirus. It can be detected by ELISA testing.

-Anaya D. Smith
junior, biology

-Compiled by Tyrone Clemons,
Staff Photographer

NAACP to Dance Away Youth HIV/AIDS Woes

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Campus Editor

While the majority of HIV/AIDS cases are due to intravenous drug use and sexual contact, these factors do not account for all instances of the disease. Nearly all cases, though, are devastating, leaving victims sometimes with little to celebrate.

But Howard's chapter of the NAACP is going to party in honor of the sometimes less remembered HIV/AIDS victims — the children.

"Knowing Is Beautiful," a cocktail party to spread awareness and love, will raise funds to benefit a local children's initiative on Saturday, which is World AIDS Day.

Pediatric AIDS/HIV Care (PAHC) is a nonprofit organization committed to helping five- to 18-year-olds who are infected and affected by the disease in The District. The organization will receive every penny raised by ticket sales of the event.

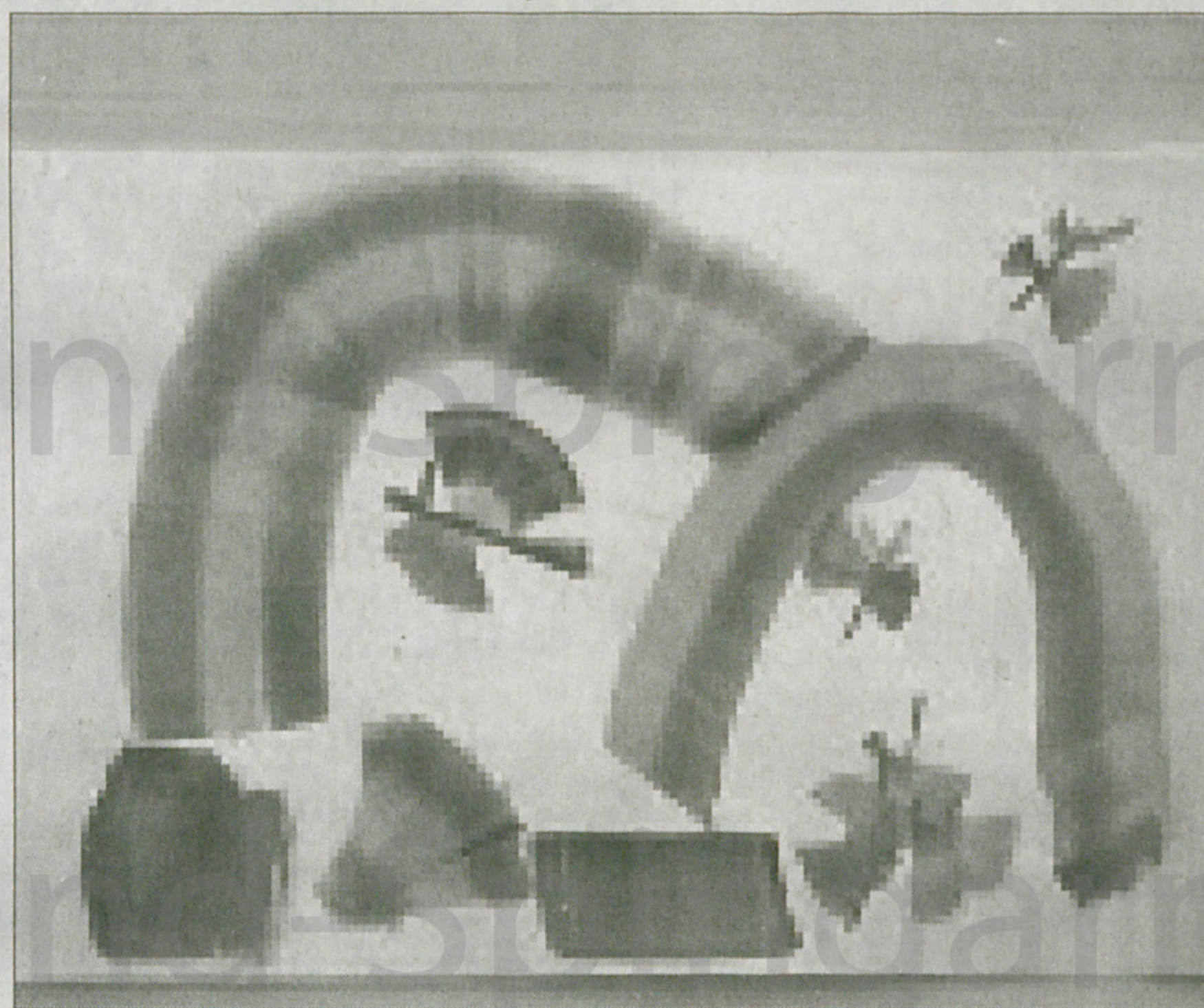
Every 30 minutes, according to the organization's Web site, someone under the age of 25 contracts HIV.

"When you think of kids," said Kendra Clark, NAACP membership chair and Knowing Is Beautiful event organizer, "it's not because they contracted the disease, but they were born with it."

PAHC is especially concerned with providing psychosocial nurturing for the young people who sometimes find it hard to accept and process the disease that is a part of their lives.

"They think they're really different from the other kids and it's really hard for them to cope with the fact that they have the disease," Clark said after discussing the mission of the organization with PAHC representatives.

PAHC is alternatively known



Photos Courtesy of pediatricaids-hivcare.com

Pieces Wright House children's artwork will be displayed at "Knowing Is Beautiful."

as "The Wright House." Many young people do not want to say they live in an HIV/AIDS home or attend an after-school care program that deals directly with disease as the organization's name indicates.

Much effort is focused on getting the children to see the good things in life and understand that their disease does not have to take control, and the organization does this in a few special ways.

"At the heart of our program are individual and group expressive arts therapy and grief counseling," the Web site stated. Program participants use a variety of creativity-based forms as therapy, including poetry, music, drama and art.

Pieces of the children's artwork will be on display in the Blackburn Reading Lounge during the cocktail party so attendees can mingle

and observe.

Tickets are \$5. Clark said about 75 tickets have been sold so far, but she expects between 100 and 120 at the party. Full capacity would mean a \$600 donation to PAHC.

Hayna Sanders, the 2003 to 2004 president of the Howard NAACP chapter, graduated and now works for a law firm, but is making time to give her money and show support for the cause.

"It shows that Howard cares not just about the kids in its gates," Sanders said, "but the kids outside of them as well."

It was while researching on the job that Sanders found that AIDS/HIV disproportionately affects black people, especially in Washington, D.C. She was also impressed with the chapter's reach to a population other than young adults,



which tends to be the main focus of HIV/AIDS awareness on campus.

"When many organizations spread awareness, they target maybe one demographic," Sanders said, commending the chapter for reaching out to young people. "There is more than just our age group. There is the generation under us and the generation over us."

The NAACP will volunteer at The Wright House on Saturday and plans to continue the party as an annual event.

"Moreover than that," Clark said, "we want to make sure that we're actively involved in The Wright House."

Knowing Is Beautiful

Saturday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Blackburn Reading Lounge.
Tickets can be purchased from NAACP Executive Board members.

Students Understand the Importance of HIV Awareness

Continued from FRONT, AIDS

she visited many clinics and hospitals and spoke with health care officials about improving HIV/AIDS education.

"You can never have too much education," Jacocks said. "In fact, I think Howard students receive lots of facts but fail to reach out the D.C. community and inform them about HIV/AIDS."

Dr. Timothy Price, who specializes in internal medicine and infectious diseases such as HIV, has been working in the Washington, D.C. community for 20 years.

"HIV is a disease that is easy to

prevent if protection is being used," he said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 25 percent of the people infected with HIV do not know they have it.

"I have had patients who come in looking and feeling perfectly fine," Price said. "I didn't even expect them to be HIV positive, but after the results came in, they were."

Some people, however, are aware of their status but due to embarrassment, resentment and other unknown reasons, refuse to inform their sexual partners that they are infected.

It is recommended to ask potential

sex partners questions about who the person has been involved with, how many partners they have had and when the last time they received an HIV test was.

"My friend Jimmy from Philadelphia is 19 years old and just found out he had HIV," said Andrew Best, a junior political science major. "He is bisexual and had several partners before he knew about his infection. However, he continues to have unprotected sex with them without informing them of his status."

Aware of his friend's carelessness and the vast number infected females, Best has decided to take the road to abstinence.

Although gay men have the high-

est risk of contracting HIV in the nation, heterosexual contact makes up 37 percent of the leading mode of HIV transmission in the District of Columbia.

Students often read these statistics and simply count themselves out because they cannot fathom the idea of having HIV.

Another reason Howard students may feel detached from the Washington, D.C. HIV epidemic is because many are not originally from the area, and therefore feel the statistics do not apply to them.

"If someone is found to have HIV early, with good care and before they have lots of symptoms, they could lead a completely normal life span," Price said.

Although medications trigger several side effects, a patient can still live for a long time.

What happens in the Washington, D.C. community affects students whether they want to acknowledge it or not.

"Howard University students have got to start taking HIV/AIDS testing and prevention seriously," said Megan McNair, a sophomore broadcast journalism major whose uncle died with AIDS 12 years ago. "I have abstained from sex since I've been to Howard, and if I choose to engage, I will be sure to use protection."

Browner Reaches Out to Students

Continued from FRONT, BROWNER

As a tyke, high fevers, cold sweats and vomiting were just a few of the severe side effects he suffered as a result of his daily medications. But as he grew older, Browner wondered why he was the only child taking eight to 15 pills a day.

Throughout his adolescent years, Browner was active in high school. However, his biggest fear was rejection. He refused to tell anyone about his illness because he did not want to be alienated and discriminated against. Nonetheless, he decided to confide in his high school sweetheart after losing his virginity.

His relationship with his "sweetheart" had a sour ending during their first years in college. Consequently, she took it upon herself to e-mail Howard University's administration about Browner's HIV status. However, it did not put a damper on his social life, as his ex might have hoped.

While at Howard University, Browner was a member of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) and Campus Pals. He majored in sociology with a minor in business and led a completely normal life on the outside.

Browner did not inform any of his sexual partners that he was HIV positive throughout their encounters.

"While having sexual relationships with others, I wasn't feeling anything," he said. "I actually went through a period when I thought I was not positive because I was doing so well, nothing was going through my mind." Yet, in his efforts to not spread the disease, he wore a condom during all sexual encounters.

Browner had kept his illness a secret from family, friends and companions for more than 15 years, but a day in church changed his life. As the preacher spoke about the purpose of life, Browner

sat in the pew contemplating his purpose. Despite his hesitation, it was after that sermon that he decided to disclose his illness to those who were close to him.

"Surprisingly, people were receptive," Browner said. "There were some who weren't, but the good outweighed the bad by far."

Since then, he has made public appearances on television, radio shows, schools and colleges and many other public outlets to promote safe sex and educate the world about HIV/AIDS for the past year.

Earlier this month, he was the guest speaker at an HIV/AIDS awareness event called "Flashing Lights" hosted by the Campus Pals.

Browner wishes he had disclosed his illness earlier in life because he could have saved time and confusion in addition to being real with himself, family and the people he dealt with.

"No one is responsible for protecting you but you," said Browner, who travels from place to place exposing the realities of life with AIDS. "Even after marriage, protect yourself at all costs." He strongly believes that if two people are not married, then a condom should be worn without question.

Browner encourages anyone who is HIV positive to disclose their illness immediately. "I understand why they would not," he said. "However, it's the right thing to do."

As for those who know others with HIV/AIDS, he said, "Try to understand what that person is going through."

Browner has been married for a year and plans to have a child with his wife, who is not HIV positive.

"Just because I have HIV, it doesn't mean it's the end of my life," he said.

Browner is willing to reach out to any student who wants advice or has questions and can be contacted at williambrowner.com.

Bison Head to the Big Apple

Continued from FRONT, CLASSIC

Giants play."

Head Coach Gil Jackson says the game has a different meaning on a few different levels.

"The number one thing is this is a league game, and our first one at that, against Hampton," Jackson said. "The game is also on one of the biggest stages at the Garden. Plus it gets all of the alumni out to the game and can help with recruiting. The main difference is, this is a league game which always brings more intensity, and especially a Howard vs. Hampton game."

For athletic director Dwight Datcher, The Big Apple Classic is a time to get to meet much of Howard's esteemed alumni. "We have a lot of alumni around New York that do not get to see us

play very often," Datcher said. "It is great to go up there and let them see the program. Last year I saw 1,000 Howard alumni at the game."

Assistant Coach James Wilhelmi says this game adds much more responsibility especially on his part.

"You have to pay attention to detail in an event like this," Wilhelmi said. "I have to handle the travel and lodging plans on top of my coaching duties. It is all worth it because this is an exciting time especially for the players."

The doors to Madison Square Garden will open at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. There will be exhibitors, food, a DJ and much more. Plus there will be a step show competition at 3 p.m. and a drumline competition at 4:30 p.m. The event is hosted BET 106th and Park's Terrace and Rocsi.

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Pick up
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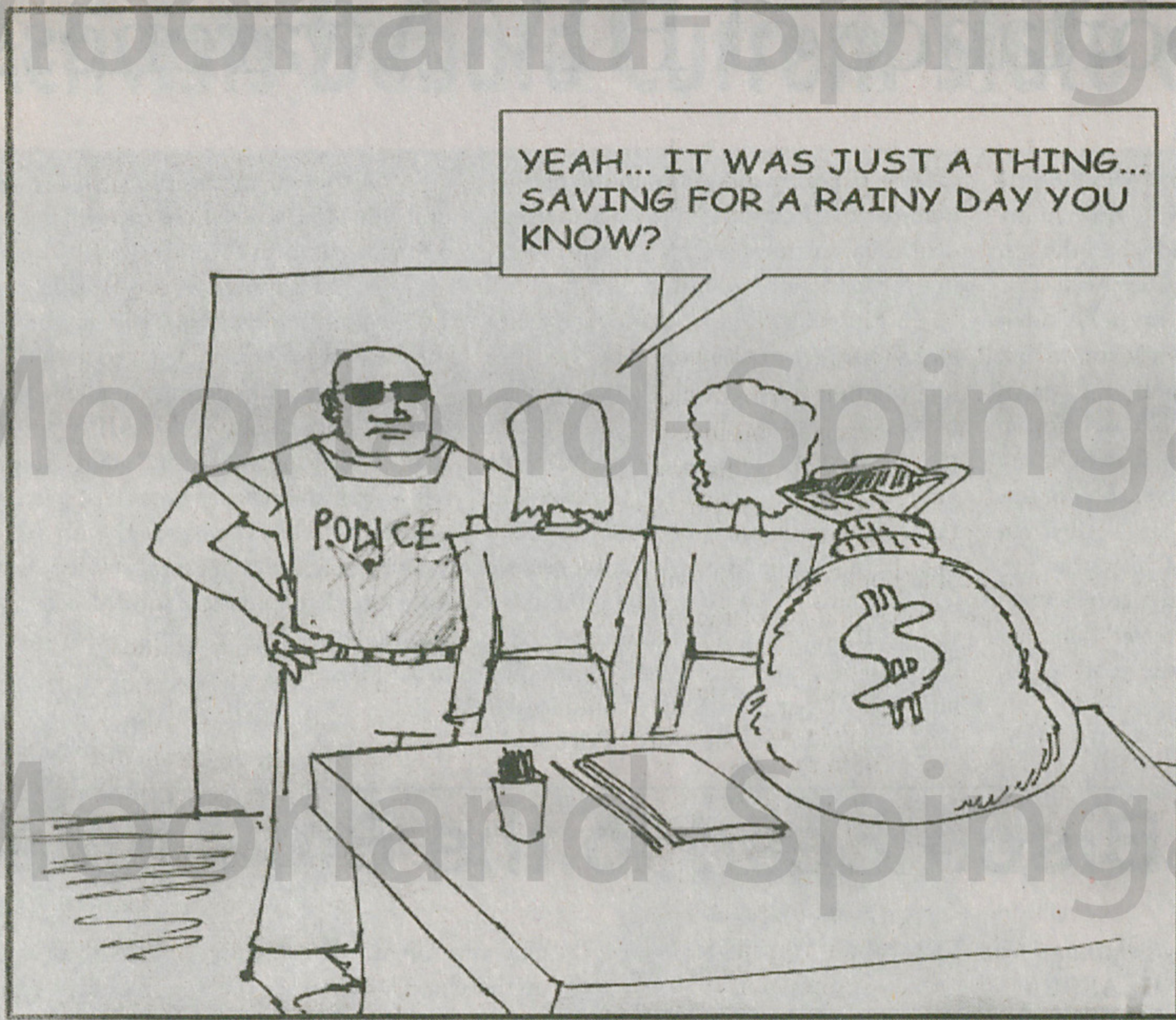
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Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1–9 exactly once.

6			4		9	1		
	1	4	7		5	2		
				6				
	2				5	1		
	4						8	
		8	2				6	
				5				
5	3				1	2	4	
9	7		2					1



Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Embezzlement Case Costs D.C. Residents Big Bucks

Harriette Walters and Diane Gustus, former workers for the District's Office of Tax and Revenue, were arrested for stealing more than \$20 million from taxpayers through phony paperwork.

It is difficult to understand the lack of precaution in this matter considering that D.C. is working on rebuilding its reputation after nearly two decades of corruption and high crime. How did these women for half of a decade mislead city government officials to steal more than \$20 million? Management who oversaw the work of Walters and Gustus still have not been able to account for all of the revenue lost. How much money have taxpayers lost? How will the District recover their losses?

When the women's houses were raided investigators found an abundance of lavish items such as high-end cars, furs, expensive jewelry, designer handbags and clothing. Over the past three years, Walters and Gustus

have issued over 40 checks each averaging about \$388,000. Walters, who worked as a mid-level manager making \$81,000 a year, signed off on tax refunds. Gustus made \$51,000 a year as a tax specialist. Clearly, neither woman was

to prevent crimes like this from re-occurring. People in high-ranking offices need to be supervised to avoid monetary manipulations. Though the Office of Integrity and Oversight has been instated within the D.C. office, more must be done.

Walters and Gustus were not caught until this past July when a bank teller refused to cash a \$410,000 refund check. Their crime was so successful due to the inability of workers to spot the breach and mistakes being made.

Internal control within the District's office should take measures to better train employees to not only recognize what should be on paper work, but to recognize what is not to be there as well.

Faulty documents should become an easy spot to all trained employees of the District's Office of Tax and Revenue. Optimistically with increased internal control taxpayers will be more encouraged to trust the government's use of their dollar.

Our View:

Sadly, residents' money was going straight into the pockets of these women.

in a desperate economic situation where their only option would be to steal from taxpayers.

The incident has caused four top employees of the District's Office of Tax and Revenue to resign. It is inexplicable how such a serious breach could occur. The reckless use of taxpayers' dollars has created a serious distrust throughout the city.

There are changes that must be made to the internal control of the tax and revenue office

Perspective

Sincere Words from your Fellow HU Bison

Dear Fellow Bison,

It's that time again!

As the semester draws to a close, (praise him) and finals are among us, I have a few key points that I would like to share with my peers as a sort of parting gift.

SO! Without further adeiu

First and foremost, it is important that you as a student of HU, no matter what classification, take some time out to reflect on the happenings of this past semester (freshmen, this is all too new to you, but you'll get used to it.) Put some time aside and just think about the ups and the downs, the good and the bad experiences and your overall performance as a collegiate level student. Do your peers a favor and recommend professors who lived up to their title. But most importantly make sure you recognize what DIDN'T go over so well over the past three months; whether it was academically and/or personally and make a conscious effort not to allow history to repeat itself for the upcoming semester. Were you involved at all? Any clubs? Organizations? Honor Societies? And I mean ACTIVE-LY, not just for those precious RSVP points. It is important not to spread yourselves too thin and you end up not having time for any activity. These are all things to think about.

On a more serious note, it is imperative that you examine why you are here in the first place. I mean, you must already realize that some people would give their

all to be standing on these hallowed and sacred grounds at this great facility of higher learning, so, I sincerely hope that you are taking your education seriously. Strive to be the best. Don't act like we are an 'institute' instead of a university. We are the movers and shakers of HBCU's nationwide. I am pretty sure you've heard it a thousand times. I know that some of us are tempted to go ahead and try to pull a 'Diddy,' but it's not that simple.

On that note:

To my freshmen: been there, done that. You just got here, you're excited, you're pumped... Guess what?? Don't wil' out! Remember the pinning ceremony?? You know, when Swygert said "Look to your left, look to your right; one of these people will not be sitting with you at graduation." Yeah well....don't let that person be you. Don't let what I like to call the "Howard Hype" get to you. And if it already has? Do better next semester. Stop going to Love on Thursdays and Platinum on Fridays, and instead, hit up Club UGL. It's the only way.

To my sophomores, (sigh) The sophomore slump. I heard about it, but I thought it was a myth. Nope! Apparently all students go through it their sophomore year. You don't go to class, you switch your major a bunch of times and you really don't know what you're doing with your life but you can't tell your mom because she'll make you come home and go to community college because you are wasting her money. You'll get it together. Eventually.

To my juniors: where are you? Oh. That's right, you're deep into your major classes, attaining internships, paying rent and working while you are a full time student. You are in a transition period cutting loose the final threads of immaturity, or at least you are trying to. This may be very stressful. Preparing for adulthood is hard work, but it will pay off in the end.

And To my mighty, mighty seniors: look at you, all grown up...one semester down, one to go! Never thought it would come so quickly, did you? You are about to be released into the real world. Are you ready? All the hard work, difficulties with administration, hustling, tears, sweat and blood is about to be all worth it in May. Although this may be your second attempt at graduation, it is finally within your reach! To those non-graduating seniors: it happens.

Ahhh, the Howard Experience. There is nothing like it. They say that college years are the best four (sometimes five) years of your life. We take advantage of what it has to offer, we take classroom knowledge and apply it to real life and ideally we will demonstrate "leadership for America and the global community." So with that, shout out to Class of '08, welcome class of 2011. Class of '09, and '10, we are almost there; keep pushing. Have a safe and Happy Holiday HU.

Sincerely,

Grace Salvant

Have a great holiday!

Budget meetings will continue next semester.

MONDAYS @ 7 P.M.

WEST TOWER (P-LEVEL)

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Genuinely Jolley

The Ombudsman Speaks...

By the time this goes to print I know everyone will be Sean Taylored out. But I ask that you indulge me by reading just one more take on the whole situation. What can I say, I bleed burgundy and gold and I just can't help myself. (As a matter of fact I'm in my very vintage, some would say tattered, Redskins jersey as I write this column.)



For those of you not familiar with Sean Taylor's past, let's just say it wasn't pristine. He had several run-ins with the law after being drafted, sort of rebelled against team protocol at times and wasn't always open with the media. But to Washington fans virtually none of this mattered. He was a part of the Redskin family, so we loved him through it all. Now that I think about it, Washingtonians are an understanding bunch of people. Heck, we re-elected a mayor that was caught on camera smoking crack, but that's for another column.

So, we're understandably distraught over his untimely death. A lot like white America when Elvis went on to that eternal Graceland in the sky.

Enter: Michael Wilbon.

Wilbon, a sports writer and columnist for the Washington Post and an ESPN commentator, starts talking out the side of his neck all types of reckless. The thrust of Wilbon's poorly timed rant was that Sean Taylor getting murdered is, "not surprising."

Now, naturally I take offense to the mess he said. No, not because his comments were insensitive but because they didn't make sense coming from someone who should understand the sociocultural context within which Sean Taylor's life was lived. I know it's en vogue to make controversial statements as a journalist, since apparently that's what sells, but the Post is paying him way too much to be gratuitously provocative.

Wilbon said, "whether this incident is or isn't random, Taylor grew up in a violent world, embraced it, claimed it, loved to run it and refused to divorce himself from it...It's sad, yes, but hardly surprising...why would I be considering his history, even since he joined the Redskins?"

And that's only the half of it!

To that I say WOW, Wilbon has got quite a pair on him.

I mean come on, think about what you're saying please.

Yes, Sean Taylor grew up in a violent world, and I understand how you could see him embracing that environment, but how could he not? That's like the number one rule for survival -- adaptation. Just as Wilbon, as I might add, has had to do, as he has switched from strictly a newspaper guy to TV commentator. When's the last time you've seen him wearing glasses? Exactly.

It's as if Wilbon is saying, that if Taylor forgot, abandoned and ignored everything that had to do with where he came from, he might still be alive. Because it's just that easy right? The day a young man -- a young black man no less -- signs an NFL contract all of his life's circumstances should become irrelevant and erroneous.

Never mind that, according to Taylor's childhood friend Antrel Rolle of the Arizona Cardinals, "there was so much surrounding him," so much so that, "he just had to distance himself from everyone and live a life of his own."

Hmm, this seems to contradict Wilbon's claim that Taylor "refused to divorce" himself from the people and situations in his past. Perhaps Wilbon didn't consider the fact that maybe, the problem wasn't Taylor's unwillingness to let the hood go. Maybe, just maybe, the hood wouldn't let him go.

It's funny that Wilbon is demonizing where Taylor came from, because Taylor's success, I think, is probably due in some part to the "violent world" of which he came. Just like how Jay-Z wouldn't be all of what he is without the mayhem of the Marcy Projects.

Look, we all know that in some cases people who fight to come up from the bottom can attract the envy and malicious intent of those that are still left struggling. It is what it is, that's just the pedagogy of the oppressed. And it's unfortunate that such a promising young star had to fall victim because of it.

Personally, I believe Taylor was targeted because he did change, contrary to what Wilbon said. Which would explain why the miscreants that perpetrated this crime came at him so hard.

You don't have to be in the NFL to know that haters always seem to creep up when you're doing things right (especially when you're young, gifted and black).

It's all so sad, but hopefully we, the Redskins, can finish the season strong and do something extremely miraculous like win the Super Bowl in Taylor's memory. Maybe that would be an event that would give Michael Wilbon something surprising to write about.

‘We Got to do Better’: Howard University Included

Submitted By Lakendra L. Smith

Have you ever tried those fruity fart tablets? Or seen the black man with the long jheri curl play the keyboard to cheesy show tunes? Well these are advertisements and showcases that can be seen on BET's new series, "We Gotta Do Better," Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. The show is hosted by comedian Charlie Murphy. This is a reality show where random escapades, inventions and absolute ignorance of African Americans are displayed. Throughout the show, the host interviews random African Americans asking questions that they should know as a race. For instance, "What year were the slaves freed?" or "Who was the first African-American presidential candidate?"

Not only does the show convey the ignorance of African Americans who do not know common facts about Black history, the show also broadcasts outlandish inventions by African Americans such as "Fruity Fart Tablets," which make the smell of fart more fruity. The show does have a comical nature, but many people object to its public display of black people's ignorance of their history and experiences in America.

The question is, whether or not Howard University students are doing what is necessary to dispel the image of African Americans being "coons" and people who do not progress? Many students feel that as future African-American leaders, they are doing above and beyond what should be done in order to suc-

ceed as a student and an African American in society. In other's opinions, there is still more to be done. African-American studies professor Lavonne Jackson-Leslie said, "It's okay to have fun but there is a time and place for comedy. We have not arrived to a place where race doesn't matter. African Americans should be aware of who they are and the place that they hold in society. If African Americans want to progress, they have to make themselves favorable to society."

All too often, society views African Americans as hustlers, trifling criminals, coons and all other descriptive words that essentially mean, there is no achievement among this group of people and there is no effort put into the things they do. Jackson-Leslie goes on further to say, "We have to understand the ramifications of the media. There is a void in strong black leadership. Leaders must be proactive, transmit images showing character, intellect and perseverance. We can have fun in a manner where we are not stereotyping our people."

Students like sophomore print journalism major Melissa Montgomery said, "Some black people, even students are lazy. When society sees that, they put the lazy sticker on every other African American regardless of their credentials and desire to succeed." African American literature professor Yasmin De Gout spoke on the negative depiction of African Americans, calling it "an unavoidable issue because society functions as a one black

for all deal. This is a level where the focus is whether one black figure is representing us positively. Frantz Fanon would say that we are being neurotic." It is unfortunate to always have an eye on our own people hoping that they will be good representatives of race to society.

African Americans know that it is unacceptable for people of their race to do things such as the nonsense displayed on "We Gotta do Better" or in entertainment in general. Instead of making a difference, many of us just laugh. "I feel that it is really ignorant for African Americans to accept this, we cannot keep laughing the truth away," sophomore physics major Maurice Jackson said.

Unfortunately, we are slowly falling into a deep hole of mental and intellectual bondage. As future leaders of America, Howard students should be making progress. In a sense, many students are doing what they should to better themselves as individual people, and in turn, as a race. The issue is not whether you want to do better as a race, but the fact that you have to do better. If not, all of your ancestors' struggles, which allowed you to reach success, will be in vain. Jackson-Leslie, ended her statement profoundly when she said, "I stand strong on the motto of Lifting as We Climb." This essentially means, those Howard University students who are climbing the ladder to success should reach back to another and lift them to climb high also.

Have your voice heard next Friday on the Op-Ed page!

E-mail submissions to the "Letters to the Editor" link at www.thehilltoponline.com

THE HILLTOP
The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorials & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

Simone Says...



The Four Year Itch...

By Simone Stephenson

As the semester comes to a close, there have been a few things on my mind. Namely, graduation 2008. Yes ladies and gentlemen, I am one of the lucky (very lucky) few who will be graduating in the "standard" four year timeline. No extra semesters for me! So what does that mean? First, I was shocked when I realized that I would be graduating on time. I was almost sure that I would need a few classes over the summer or during the next fall semester. After changing my major from undecided to political science to print journalism, I assumed I would be at Howard for many years to come. When I looked at my scheme in my counselors office, it looked that way. However, when I met with my counselor for the umpteenth time earlier this semester, I was pleasantly surprised when she told me that I was actually on track. Sure, I have to take 21 credits next semester (after my 20 credits this semester) but you know what? Bring it on Howard University!

As fun as that sounds, there's a problem. What on Earth am I supposed to do after I get my diploma? Get a job and an apartment? Oh gosh, I can't picture myself in my own apartment with my own bills. And where on Earth am I supposed to find a job? Do I just google "journalism jobs?" How about this one: "high paying journalism jobs with minimal work?" Hiam...okay, I'm willing to do work, but I'm also open to making tons of money. As a print journalism major (who actually wants to write for a profession), it's difficult, because I am probably looking at \$30,000 a year living in Manhattan or something. Looks like I'll be waiting tables on weekends to make ends meet. Strange as it may sound, I'm actually looking forward to it.

So where does that put me now?

It puts me in a position where I have one single semester left in my undergraduate collegiate career. Who'da thunk it? Meanwhile, as I sit here writing this column I can't help but worry about what the rest of my evening holds. I have two research papers, four articles, a week's worth of Hilltop editorials, a presentation and two take home final exams...all to be completed on or before Dec. 6. Not including the in-class final exam I have on the 13th of December. With that said, perhaps my May 2008 graduation is imperative on whether or not I actually get the work done that is needed to pass my fall 2007 finals.

Wish me luck, please!

Don't like something we said on this page? Submit your own perspective to

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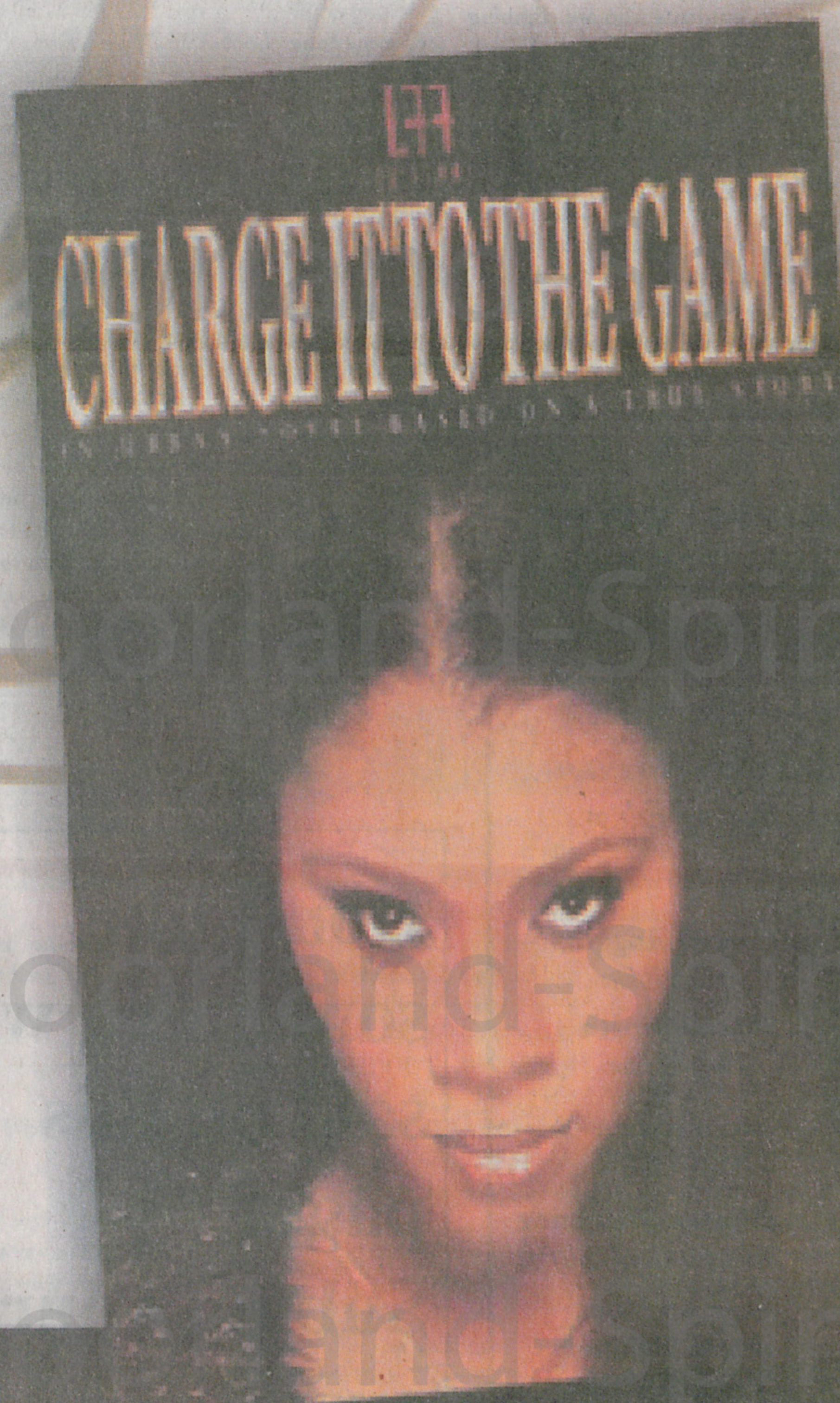
Or submit a guest essay for the Friday Op-Ed page!

The Office of Dean for Student Life & Activities
Presents

31) Flavors of a WOMAN

Featuring Michelle Fletcher

Author of "Charge it to the Game"



Tuesday, December 4th, 2007
6:00 PM

First 30 attendees receive a free copy of "Charge It to the Game"

Blackburn Center Gallery lounge

Light fare, ice cream and good conversation, guaranteed.

Students Request Technology Over Traditional Holiday Gifts

BY TIWANA BEVERLY
Contributing Writer

As the sights and sounds of the holidays fill the air, most students are focusing on finally finishing up the semester. Studying for finals may render the search for the perfect gift a hard job.

Some students search high and low for the perfect gift, but sometimes end up falling short before they go home.

Coincidentally, college students are often the hardest people to shop for when it comes to gifts. However, with the new gadgets emerging on the scene, many students have ideas of what they might want this holiday season.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major Ashley Freeman is hoping for something shiny in her stocking.

"This Christmas, I want the iPod Touch because I want something new and fresh, so I

figured I'd go with Apple's latest iPod technology," Freeman said.

Like Freeman, sophomore marketing major Erin Middlebrooks also wants a new Apple product.

"For Christmas, I would love to receive a new iPod nano video," Middlebrooks said. "The one I currently have now is outdated and doesn't have the video capabilities."

Technology-based gifts seem to be very high on most college students' holiday gift lists this year. According to a survey done by Staples, Inc. in 2003, 68 percent of people wanted technology gifts.

Shira Goodman, the executive vice president of marketing at Staples, told Goliath business news service that, "Technology products have become more user-friendly and more affordable, which is a perfect fit for gift giving this holiday season."

Goodman also said gift-givers still need to consider the needs of the people they are shopping for.

"The key to success this year is making it easy for shoppers to figure out the right gift for the people on their lists," Goodman said.

Matthew Smith, a concierge at the Apple Store in the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City in Arlington, Va., is already prepared for the big rush of customers seeking the newest Apple gadgets.

"A lot of people are coming in and buying up the iPhone along with the iPod Touch," Smith said. "Those have been huge sellers. As a result, Apple has hired a lot more help because of the huge numbers of customers that come into the store."

Despite the huge gadget craze, some students are still unphased. Sophomore political sci-

ence major Jarvis Seegars wants a more practical gift for the holidays.

"I want the New Air Jordan's Spi'zikes," Seegars said. "They are very nice shoes and a portion of the proceeds go towards the film department at Morehouse College. I think what the company has chosen to do with the proceeds is a great thing. I'm glad to see them giving back."

Students who prefer to purchase their own gifts this holiday season may decide to look into cash or gift cards as an additional gift list idea.

Junior biology major Andre Porter said, "I want to receive money this Christmas...although I would be happy receiving any gift. Money leaves you the opportunity to apply your gift however you please. I can purchase some clothes with it or buy food or pay bills."

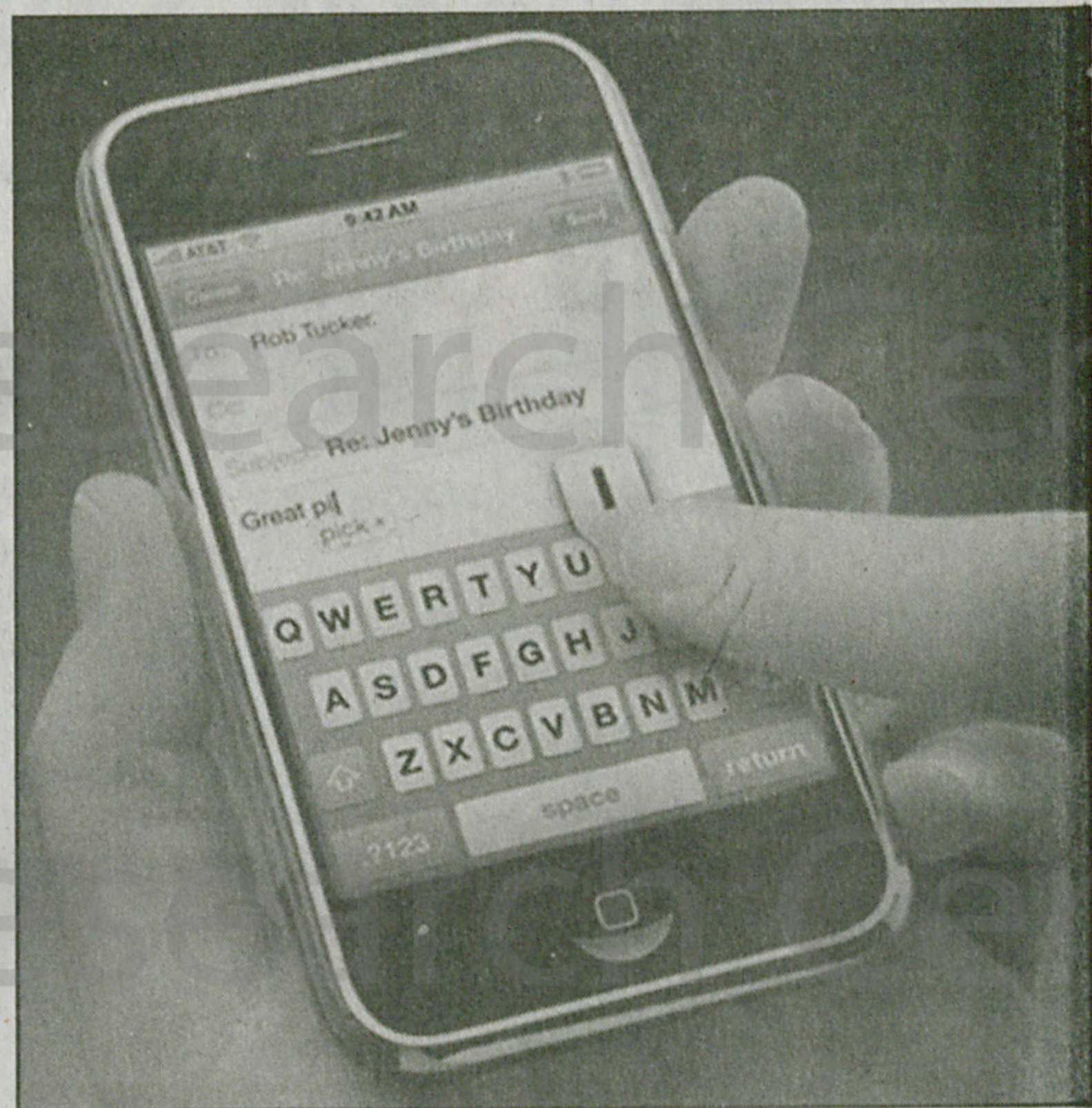


Photo Courtesy of regmedia.co.uk
Many technology-based gifts are in high demand among students this holiday season. The iPhone (above) is one stocking stuffer idea for this year.



Peter Andrew Bosch - Miami Herald (MCT)
Pedicures are a good way to keep nails polished and clean. However, if the tools used are not properly sterilized, fungus can grow. Fungal infections can be treated with both topical and prescription medications.

Proper Conditions, Tools Keep Feet Warm and Fungus-Free in Winter

BY RONALD TOLSON JR.
Contributing Writer

First, the end of your nail changes colors. It goes from black to green to yellow. Then, you notice that the toenail starts to thicken up.

You feel pain in your toes or fingertips from the thickening of the nail.

At this point, it starts to become brittle and begins to crack or break. The last phase is the worst — when the nail begins to smell.

Nail fungus is rarely a topic of discussion, but it affects a large number of Americans. Some researchers estimate that nail fungus affects approximately 35 million Americans, with 11 million diagnosed cases each year.

Onychomycosis, more commonly referred to as nail fungus, appears when tiny organisms called dermatophytes invade and infect the fingernail or toenail.

People often think that individuals with bad hygiene get fungal infections, but that's not always the case.

Fungal organisms are all around. From dirt to dust, it's easy for anyone to contract fungal infections.

Fungus often spreads faster during the wintertime when feet are warmly wrapped up, with the moisture of snow outside.

Since fungi thrive in moist areas like sweaty socks, there are certain things one should approach with caution.

Between all the nail beds on the appendages, the toenail carries the highest risk of being infected.

For students, toenails are more vulnerable because they are exposed to damp areas more often.

Beth Miller, a certified medical assistant at Plaza Podiatry, said, "These areas include, but are not limited to, bathroom floors, shower rooms, locker rooms, spas and swimming pools. In these areas, you should

always keep your feet protected from touching the floor to prevent catching any type of fungus."

Senior pre-physical therapy major Inem Ekpo said, "that is why whenever I go to the pool, I always make sure I wear my flip flops so I can avoid walking around barefoot."

One common cause of nail fungus is injury to and around the area of the nail, mainly through tiny cuts invisible to the eye or through small separations between the nail and nail bed.

Feet endure a lot of wear and tear, and activities like running or playing basketball can easily cause a slight rupture in the nail plate.

The dark, damp atmosphere created by socks and shoes provides a perfect breeding ground for the toenail fungus.

Another fact to be mindful of is that if a person uses the same toenail clipper to trim their fingernails without sterilizing it, these microorganisms can spread and cause a fungal infection of the fingernail as well.

Although it is a lot easier to get a toenail fungus than a fingernail fungus, fingernail infections happen fairly often as well.

It can happen to people who share manicuring tools, such as a fingernail file or emery board, with a friend or family member.

Acrylic nails or the constant use of nail polish also makes the nail less "breathable," which, in turn, makes the nail more susceptible to fungal infections.

"Before going to get my nails done, I try to go at least a week or two without wearing any nail polish to give my nails a chance to breathe before going to the nail salon," said Shanee Paul, a sophomore history major.

As well as receiving manicures and pedicures with unsanitary equipment in unhygienic nail salons, gardening in the yard without wearing gloves or working with certain chemicals can lead to contracting nail

fungus.

Freshman business management major Bukky Ojeifo said, "I always get my nails done in the same salon and try to avoid going to different nail salons that I know nothing about."

Nail fungus is more common among older adults because nails tend to grow more slowly with age, making them more susceptible to infection.

Surprisingly, nail fungus tends to affect men more than women.

It also usually affects those with a family history of infections.

However, other factors, such as smoking, using drugs, perspiring heavily and working in humid or moist environments, are also major risk factors.

Nail fungus can be quite stubborn to get rid of and "may produce dramatic changes in the nail," said Elizabeth Whitmore, M.D., assistant professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Although the mere existence of a nail fungus can cause distress for any individual, it is good to know that it is something that can be treated quite easily. There are two basic treatments currently used for correcting fungal infections: topical and prescription medications.

Topical nail fungal treatments are best used for non-severe nail fungal infections. Topical medicines are available in many different forms, such as sprays and creams, but the two most popular brands of topical remedies are Lamisil and Tinactin.

Those who have developed a more severe type of nail fungus may need to obtain a prescription for a stronger type of medication.

The best way to determine the severity of a fungal infection is to have a doctor examine the area.

By doing so, an individual can find whether it is indeed a nail fungus or a more serious problem.

Weekly Entertainment Guide

Usher Welcomes New Baby

Usher Raymond, 29, welcomed his first child with his wife, Tameka Foster, on Monday night. According to an e-mail sent to The Associated Press from Raymond's publicist, Patti Webster, the couple had their new baby boy in Atlanta. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Foster, 37, has three children from a previous marriage. "We are so happy and proud of our beautiful son. What a blessing!" Usher said in a statement provided Tuesday night by Webster. According to CNN, the couple wed in a large, glitzy ceremony in early September after exchanging vows a few weeks earlier in a civil ceremony. They had called off their July 28 wedding amid reports that Foster had checked into a hospital because of problems with her pregnancy.

OJ Simpson Pleads Not Guilty to Charges

On trial for kidnapping and armed robbery of sports paraphernalia, OJ Simpson plead not guilty in a Las Vegas court on Thursday morning. On Sept. 12, Simpson and two friends were charged with coercion and assault with a deadly weapon in pursuit of the sports paraphernalia that Simpson claims was his property. According to "Entertainment Tonight," the other two men, Clarence "C.J." Stewart and Charles "Charlie" Ehrlich, plead not guilty as well.

HBCU Student Missing

On Nov. 13, Latasha Norman, a 20-year-old honor student at Jackson State University in Mississippi, walked out of her afternoon marketing class. Noone has seen her since. Her boyfriend, Stanley Cole, was charged the week before for assaulting her. Jackson City police suspect race is a deterring factor in finding Norman. "As far as the interest by the national media in the story, I think race probably had an impact," Jackson, Miss., Police Chief Malcolm McMillin told "ABC News." "We're looking for the media to give this case as much experience as it can so that we can develop some leads," McMillin said. According to BET News, Norman's parents are still tirelessly looking for her and ask that anyone who knows anything about their daughter's case contact the police.

Bishop Holds Conference to Address Wife Beating Rumors

According to BET News, in a large news conference, Bishop Thomas Weeks III, the pastor accused of brutally beating his soon to be ex-wife Prophetess Juanita Bynum. He told attendees that the marriage was always one of violence, jealousy and quarrels over money and ambition. More importantly, he denied choking, hitting and stomping her in an Atlanta parking lot in late August. Due to the alleged incident, he was arrested and charged with assault and making "terroristic threats" against his wife. He recalled an occasion when she allegedly choked him in a limousine, and another when she allegedly hit him and forced him out of the house with his jeans on and his shirt in his hand. On Sunday, Bynum responded to Weeks' charges in a statement through her publicist. "Bishop Weeks is doing exactly what he promised he would do, and that is try to destroy my name with lies, fabrications and exaggerations," the pastor said. "His behavior is to be expected."

Considering Frigid Weather with Fashion Tests Individual Style

BY SHANDRILYA LEWIS
Contributing Writer

Winter is right around the corner, and along with the season comes the cold weather. As fashionable as Howard students are, the windy weather can present a style challenge.

"During colder months, you can actually look fresher because you have so many more options," said Emmitt Charles, a sophomore finance major. "The only problem may be the pricing. Buying winter clothes can be a little expensive. That, I believe, would be the only challenge."

However, junior public relations major Candice Iloh doesn't believe winter fashions will be a challenge at all.

"I do not believe in buying a whole new wardrobe for winter," she said. "It is all about layers. I like to layer everything."

Although some Howard students have no problem when it comes to winter fashions, many did not hesitate to recognize those who are still freezing for the sake of fashion.

"I still see females all the time who are walking around barely covered up, and I just don't understand it," said Yvette Longonje, a senior chemical engineering major. "I believe that you look more elegant when you are covered up. The winter time is a time for you to really shine. You don't have to be naked to do that."

Charles agreed. "I do not believe that guys have a problem

covering up when it is cold because most guys do not really care about what they put on in the winter as long as they are warm, but I have seen some ladies around campus wearing little to nothing because they want to look cute," he said. "In actuality, you can wear a lot of clothing and look even better."

Dr. Charles Denton Johnson, an assistant professor in the history department, said the reason youth tend to show more skin is because they feel more comfortable with sexuality.

"Young people today see more music videos than my generation, and they often want to emulate what they see," he said. "I would attribute a lot of the things the students wear today to television, because it seems to set the standards of what is attractive and what is not attractive. What people do not realize is that being sexy is not what you buy or put on. Instead, it is how a person carries themselves."

Iloh said Howard is cutting edge when it comes to fashion, so those who do not cover up during cold climates are just showing how bland their style is.

"I personally would not tell people how to dress, but if you cannot adapt to weather, you lack creativity," she said. "Whose style just consists of one season?"

Ashley Matthews, a sophomore art history major, said Howard students' style transitions easily with the changing seasons.

"I was really surprised, but so far, everyone that I have been seeing has been dressing for the

season," Matthews said. "It is nice too, considering that people are covering up and actually leaving things to the imagination."

Howard students didn't hesitate to offer their opinions on what they think are winter necessities.

"Tailored coats are a must have," Longonje said. "In the winter, I feel that outerwear can truly express your individual style, so investing in different coats can make the seasonal transition a bit easier."

Iloh said, "I believe that a quality hoodie is an essential for the winter. Also, detailed scarves can live up almost any outfit."

Charles said that for the guys, cardigans and pea coats are definitely in.

"Cardigans are warm and easily layered," he said. They will keep you warm when you are outside, but when you go inside, you can easily take them off. Pea coats are just very fashionable."

Johnson said Howard students' winter transitions have been fine, but that some may be confused by the warm days that still occur from time to time.

Longonje said you shouldn't have to think too hard to cover up when it's cold.

"People know when you are trying too hard," Longonje said. "You do not have to ever compromise your individual style, but you don't have to draw attention to yourself either. I still believe that you should be comfortable. It's clearly cold outside, and everyone's primary goal is to get an education."

Miami Coach Says Not to Look at School as "Thug U"



University of Miami Coach Randy Shannon said his school should not be considered dangerous in the wake of the tragic murder of former Hurricane Sean Taylor (above) and other incidents involving Miami football players.

BY SUSAN MILLER DEGNAN
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

MIAMI — University of Miami football coach Randy Shannon said in a prepared statement Tuesday that he was "devastated over the loss of Sean Taylor."

But Shannon also told *The Miami Herald* he was frustrated that people would get the wrong impression once again, or more accurately, never get the right impression with the media publicizing the former Hurricane's shooting as something associated with a long list of other UM deaths.

"This has nothing to do with the University of Miami," Shannon said. "Sean was in the NFL. This happens all across the country. Until people stop thinking we're Thug U and start looking at what we really have done, I don't know how much more we can improve our image. No matter what I think about what we do, the image is going to be there until people start writing positive things about the school."

Shannon added, "And I don't know if that's ever going to happen."

Taylor, 24, a Miami safety from 2001 through 2003 and the fifth-overall pick of the Washington Redskins in 2004, died Tuesday morning after being shot Monday by an intruder at his Palmetto Bay, Fla. home. He grew up in Miami-Dade County and played football for Shannon, who was his defensive coordinator.

"When he was a student at the University of Miami, I got

to know him as a person and as a football player," Shannon said in his statement. "He was passionate about everything he did and was a great friend to his teammates. My thoughts are with his family."

Shannon has already been taking the necessary precautions to protect his players in his first season as head coach by banning players from having firearms. He said he has no method of checking, but if they get caught with one, no matter where, "that's it, you're done. You're off the team, period. You can't come back."

He said coaches "are out all the time talking to parents about Miami and [UM] and Coral Gables. Our coaching staff does a great job making them understand that security at the campus is wonderful and that nothing will ever happen to their sons. Unfortunately, there have been a lot of things related to [UM], but they have nothing to do with the Miami campus."

A *Miami Herald* chart in Tuesday's paper listed 10 tragic incidents that have involved UM players or former UM players. The 10 spanned from 1989 to 2007, not including Taylor's death.

"When the media puts it out like that," Shannon said, "the media creates more problems ... What deaths have really occurred on Miami's campus besides one? The only thing that ever happened on the [UM] campus was Marlin Barnes' [1996 murder]."

He continued, "Think about it. How many deaths occurred on the Virginia Tech campus? Is Virginia Tech a bad school

to go to? No."

Rodney Harris, father of UM quarterback recruit Jacory Harris and defensive coordinator at Miami Northwestern High, agrees thoroughly.

Harris is a state juvenile probation officer and said he would feel the same concern for his son's safety if he was heading to say, "Iowa."

"What happened to Sean Taylor could happen anywhere in today's society and I should know," Harris said. "There's no curse on UM. It's a great institution. This shows us where the world is today. You can't even be in your house asleep before somebody comes in the door."

Harris continued, "We sympathize as parents and coaches, and can only imagine what Sean's loved ones are going through. This shouldn't paint a bad picture for UM just because Sean went there."

Miami Booker T. Washington High safety Brandon Harris also is being recruited, although he said Tuesday he hasn't decided among the 'Canes, Florida, LSU and Ohio State.

Harris, whose girlfriend was shot and survived last June while two other friends died at the same party, said this latest shooting would not affect his college choice.

"That UM jinx thing is stupid," he said. "One thing has nothing to do with the other. Sean was just in a bad situation. I'm quite sure wherever recruits come from, they have murders in their states also. These kind of things can happen anywhere."

GAMES THIS WEEKEND

Saturday - Men's Basketball vs. Hampton At Madison Square Garden (New York City) 7 p.m.

Saturday - Women's Basketball at Providence (Brown Bear Basketball Tournament) 1 p.m.

Sunday - Women's Basketball at Manhattan/St. Joseph's (Penn.) (Brown Bear Basketball Tournament) 1 p.m.

Badminton Professor a Favorite Among Students

BY LAKENDRA SMITH
Contributing Writer

Howard University has a legacy of outstanding professors. Caroline Joyce F. Barker, a badminton professor and coach for the Badminton Club, continues to uphold the legacy.

Barker was born in North Carolina and grew up in Maryland. As a child, she was always an athlete. She played a plethora of sports, such as basketball, volleyball and softball. She is an alumna of Morgan State University, and after graduation, she taught in New York.

In 1976, Barker graced the Howard University campus with her athletic abilities and enthusiasm.

Sophomore broadcast journalism major and head of her badminton class Ashley Johnson said Barker makes her physical education courses worthwhile.

"She brings competitiveness and fun in her classes," Johnson said.

Barker said she is good at what she does because she is passionate about it.

Barker said, "I love it. This has got to be the best job in the world." Barker said she enjoys working with young people and loves being able to see their progress over a semester or two.

"Every time I begin a new semester, I look at my class and grin," she said.

Being a professor at Howard is not the only thing Barker does to embrace her athletic abilities. Since 1999, she has participated in the National Senior

Olympics. The Senior Olympics takes place every two years, and all the participants are 50 years old and above. It is an 18-sport event in which Barker competes in the individual sport of badminton. Barker said when she competed when she was younger, she would "vilify" her opponent.

"Once you mature, you learn to respect your opponent," she said. "It's one of the joys of being there."

In the eight years Barker has participated, she has never failed to win a medal. Her collection includes two golds, two silvers and two bronzes. Her most recent Olympic competition was in June 2007 when she won the bronze medal for her competition in badminton. At age 65, Barker is considered one of the elite in the country.

Barker enjoys being able to compete in the Olympics, displaying that she is fit and healthy.

"I have been involved all of my adult life in some sort of athletic endeavor," she said.

She added that being in physical education allows her "to buy back years."

"I have bought back 10 years of my life," she said. Although she has had to pay for those 10 years in sprains and bruises, it was well worth it.

She said, "One of the reasons I like being here and doing this is when my classes end, some students stay."

Sophomore biology major Henry Francis stays after class sometimes, and spoke highly of Barker. "She is in awesome shape and is able to whoop her students

in any sport if needed," Francis said. He admires the dedication that her students have for athletics and the game of badminton.

Of her 30-year tenure at Howard, Barker has spent 29 years as the head of the Badminton Club. They meet at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday in the Lower Gymnasium.

The club is a four-time National Collegiate Champion and an eight-time Eastern Regional Champion. She said being able to see these students excel in the game makes her proud. Barker said that once they won so many times, she felt like Martin Luther King Jr. on the mountaintop.

"I have a good camaraderie with kids," she said.

Johnson said she and most of her classmates enjoy being in Barker's class.

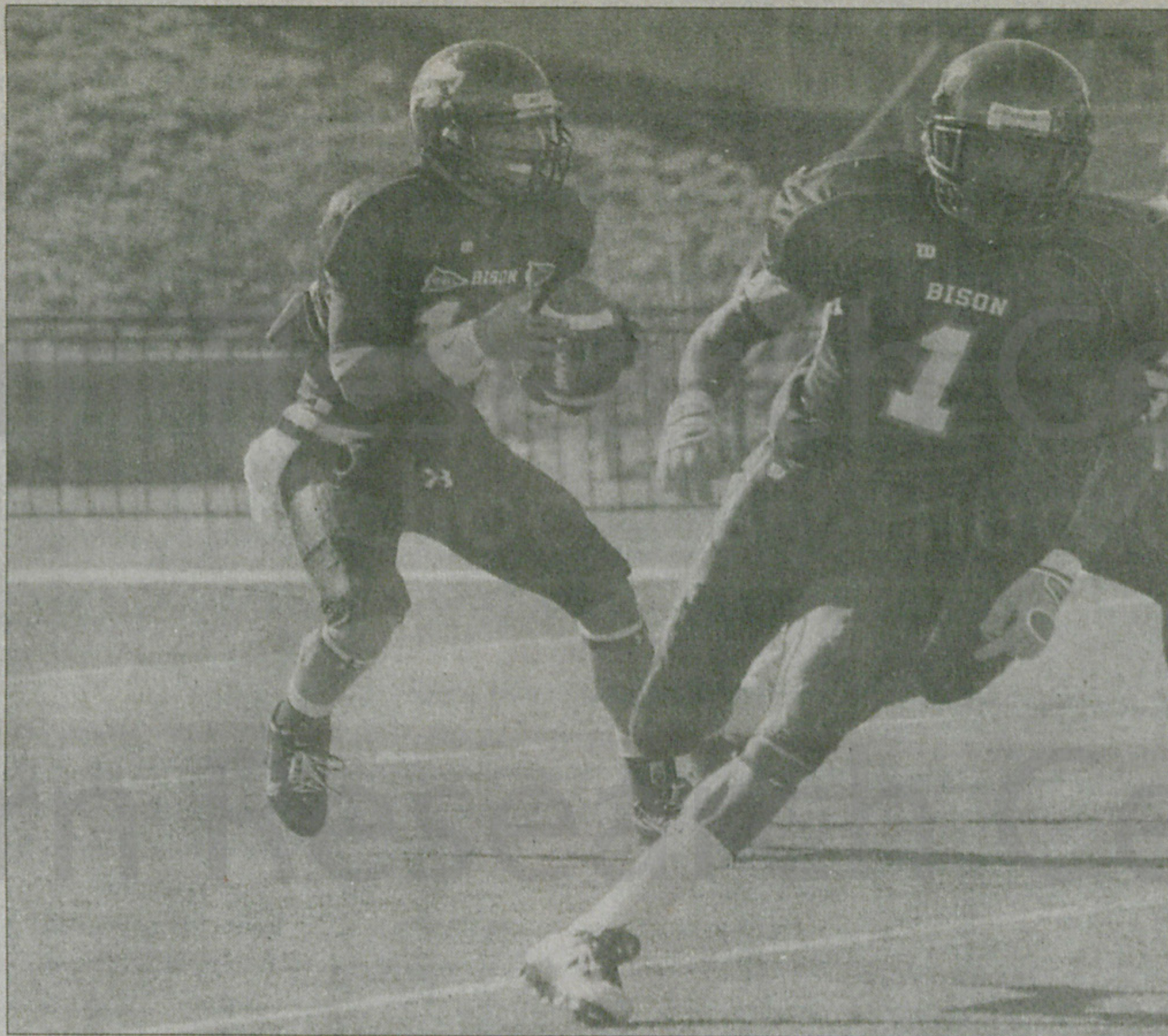
"This is my first time taking a course with her," Johnson said. "Her infectious personality and fun course makes her a favorite in the P.E. department." Students are able to talk to her, learn well, and have fun in her class.

Barker said, "If I would have been in another field, I would not be the person I am today," Barkers said. Students at Howard not only agree with Barker, but also appreciate her efforts as an excellent professor and athlete.

Johnson said "her competitiveness and her awesome sense of humor" are Barker's best characteristics. Barker is due back at the Senior Olympics in 2009. Though she won the bronze in June, she plans to compete again.

Barker said, "I'm back to the gold."

Six Bison Named to 2007 All-MEAC Football Team



Oscar Merriola IV - Staff Photographer

Brian Johnson (left) and Jarahn Williams (right) were named to the 2007 All-MEAC team this week.

Jarahn Williams and Rudolph Hardie were both named to the 2007 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) first team, while Brian Johnson, DiMarques Floyd, Robert Dowdy and Thomas Claiborn were all selected for the second team by the conference coaches and sports information directors.

Williams, a 5-foot-10-inch, 185-pound senior from Miami led all receivers with 15 touchdown receptions while tying for the conference lead in scoring. Williams' 15 TD receptions is a school record. He also caught a TD pass in every game this season, setting a new school record for TD passes in consecutive games (11). Williams averaged more than 12 yards per reception and 1 out of every 4 catches he made went for a touchdown.

Hardie is a repeat first team selection from 2006. The 6-foot-2-inch, 270-pound senior defensive end from Hartford, Conn., led the MEAC and the nation in tackles for losses with 25.5. Hardie also led the conference in sacks and was fourth in the nation with 12. He recorded 73 tackles, forced 2 fumbles and recovered on and was credited with 10 QB hurries. During the two-year period, Hardie recorded 124 tackles, including 45.5 for losses and 21.5 sacks.

Johnson, a 6-foot, 190-pound senior from Gardena, Calif., had his best season, passing for 2,212 yards, 21 TDs and only 8 interceptions en route to leading the conference in pass efficiency and in total offense. The elusive Johnson also led the Bison in rushing with 436 yards and 3 TDs. Under Johnson's generalship, the Bison led the country in time of possession.

Floyd, a 6-foot-3-inch, 315-pound senior from Greensboro, N.C., had his best season and was a key to protecting Johnson and helping the Bison lead the conference in time of possession with more than 35 minutes per game.

Dowdy, one of the more consistent and productive players in school history, finished the season as the fourth leading tackler in the MEAC. The 6-foot-2-inch, 225-pound senior linebacker from Fayetteville, N.C., recorded 45 solos, 47 assists, 8.5 tackles for losses, a sack, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Dowdy was a preseason second team All-MEAC selection.

Claiborn battled injuries during part of the season, but still managed 19 solos, 4 assists, 2 interceptions and a team-high 6 pass breakups. A 5-foot-10-inch, 175-pound senior from Pittsburgh, Claiborn was a preseason first team All-MEAC selection.

Information from Howard Sports Information Office

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Seniors come out to the

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Pick up your invitations from Student Activities on Dec 5-6!

NEW HILLTOPIC POLICY

All Hilltopics must be submitted through email.

Late Hilltopics are no longer accepted.

Hilltopics must be submitted 5 business days in advance,

Payment must be received no later than one day after submission.

If Payment is not received by the deadline, the Hilltopic WILL NOT RUN.

YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE HOMECOMING '08 HOT!

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR
HOMECOMING STEERING COMMITTEE TREASURER

The Homecoming Steering Committee Treasurer is the student who has primary responsibility for the fiscal operations of the entire homecoming program. This task is done in conjunction with the Homecoming Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee Treasurer must meet the following general eligibility criteria:

1. Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student and have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average at the time of application.
2. Must be a full time student at the time of selection and in good standing for the duration of the term as treasurer.
3. Must have been enrolled at Howard University for at least one academic year, at the time of application.
4. Must have demonstrated leadership, administrative and organizational skills at Howard University.
5. May not hold any other major position during his/her term of office without special permission from the Homecoming Policy Board.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 7, 2007

Applications are due on or before 2:00 p.m. in the Office of Student Activities, Blackburn Center, Suite 117.